

We feel it is time for the NIEHS to adopt non-animal test methods. Non-animal test methods have been discussed for almost two decades; isn't it time to stop talking and start acting?

NIEHS recommends using the non-animal method, establishing the starting dose for additional testing on animals. The problem with this approach is that while the number of animals used in acute poisoning studies is reduced, it doesn't go far enough. Why aren't government agencies should using in vitro cell culture tests to instead of using animals in lethal dose tests?

All government agencies currently requiring acute animal-poisoning studies should incorporate the in-vitro cell culture method as a means of reducing the number of animals used and furthermore, should support the use of this method as an eventual replacement for lethal-dose poisoning studies.

It is time the EPA incorporates the non-animal cell culture method into its HPV chemical program--promised in its October 1999 agreement with the animal protection community.

Dorianne Almann
Morris Klein